

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4281
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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3841

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, USSR, NO
SUBJECT: U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. DURING MY INITIAL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND
I RASIED THE TOPIC OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE USSR.

2. I NOTED THAT WHILE THE USSR HAD NOT YET COME FULLY TO
GRIPS WITH THE APPROACH OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN
THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD, RELATIONS WERE BETTER NOW THAN
THEY HAD BEEN A FEW MONTHS AGO. I POINTED OUT THAT THERE
HAD BEEN A NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENT SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S
CHARLESTON SPEECH. THE MAIN PROBLEM, FOR THE SOVIET SIDE,
I SAID, SEEMED TO BE ONE OF CONFUSION CONCERNING THE NEW
U.S. APPROACH.

3. FRYDENLUND AGREED, IN ESSENCE, WITH THIS APPRAISAL AND
SAID THAT HE LOOKED FOR SOME MONTHS OF "INSECURITY"
BEFORE THINGS SETTLED DOWN.

4. FRYDENLUND OBSERVED THAT, HERETOFORE, THE USSR HAD
LOOKED AT DETENTE AS AFFECTING ONLY THE ACTIONS AMONG
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STATES, WHILE IDEOLOGICAL WARFARE WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.
HE SAID THAT, WHILE HE KNEW THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S
COMMITTMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A DEEPLY HELD COMMITMENT,
THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD
ALSO AMOUNTED TO AN IDEOLOGICAL OFFENSIVE. FRYDENLUND
OBSERVED THAT THIS MIGHT PROVE TO BE USEFUL SINCE THE
USSR MIGHT, AFTER A WHILE, BE READY FOR AN IDEOLOGICAL

CEASE-FIRE.
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Message Attributes

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